Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing electrical signals comprising:

a layered structure comprising at least one signal trace and stub trace disposed on a first side of an electrically insulating layer, a via electrically connected to said signal trace and said stub trace, ~~said via having a conductive stub trace electrically connected thereto,~~ and a generally planar electrically conductive layer disposed on a second side of said electrically insulating layer, wherein said stub trace on said first side defines an area on said second side where said electrically conductive layer is absent.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said electrically insulating layer comprises a first electrically insulating layer and said generally planar electrically conductive layer comprises a first electrically conductive layer and said layered structure further comprises a second electrically insulating layer disposed on a side of said signal trace opposite said first electrically insulating layer and a second generally planar

electrically conductive layer is disposed on said second electrically insulating layer on a side opposite said signal trace, wherein said stub trace also defines an area where said second electrically conductive layer is absent.

3. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 comprising a plurality of said vias and a plurality of said stub traces, wherein all of said stub traces define a plurality of said areas on said second side where said electrically conductive layer is absent.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 3 wherein said area where said electrically conductive layer is absent on said second side ~~where said electrically conductive layer is absent~~ is sufficiently large to increase an impedance of said stub traces and sufficiently small to maintain a structural integrity of said layered structure.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein a width of said stub trace is reduced to a minimum width required ~~for~~ to support an electroplating process.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 3 wherein a width of at least one of said plurality of stub traces is reduced to a

minimum width ~~required for~~ to support an electroplating process.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein substantially all of said electrically conductive layer is absent for a defined width around a perimeter of said layered structure with the exception of a plurality of electrical contacts necessary ~~for~~ to support an electroplating process.

8. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said layered structure is an integrated circuit package.

9. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said layered structure is a printed circuit board.

10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Withdrawn)

12. (Withdrawn)

13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Withdrawn)

16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing electrical signals comprising:

a layered structure comprising at least one signal trace and stub trace disposed on a first side of an electrically insulating layer, a via electrically connected to said signal trace and said stub trace, and a generally planar electrically conductive layer disposed on a second side of said electrically insulating layer having an insulating perimetrical portion that is co-planar with ~~of~~ said electrically conductive layer, said perimetrical portion defined by a position of said stub trace~~having one or more electrical access lines from an edge of said apparatus to said electrically conductive layer~~.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) An apparatus for routing electrical signals comprising:

a layered structure comprising at least one signal

trace and stub trace disposed on a first side of an electrically insulating layer, a via electrically connected to said signal trace and said stub trace, and a generally planar electrically conductive layer disposed on a second side of said electrically insulating layer wherein said stub trace has a width substantially smaller than said signal trace.

Amendments to the Drawings:

New FIGURE 10 is added to the drawings. An entire set of replacement drawings in attached hereto to correct for page numbering that has changed as a result of newly added Figure 10.